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Paternal Testing

John 8:31-48 ³¹So He said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³“We are Abraham’s descendants,” they answered. “We have never been slaves to anyone. How can You say we will be set free?” ³⁴Jesus replied, “Truly, truly, I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷I know you are Abraham’s descendants, but you are trying to kill Me because My word has no place within you. ³⁸I speak of what I have seen in the presence of the Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.” ³⁹“Abraham is our father,” they replied. “If you were children of Abraham,” said Jesus, “you would do the works of Abraham. ⁴⁰But now you are trying to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing. ⁴¹You are doing the works of your father.” “We are not illegitimate children,” they declared. “Our only Father is God Himself.” ⁴²Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on My own, but He sent Me. ⁴³Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you are unable to accept My message. ⁴⁴You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out his desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, refusing to uphold the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, because he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me! ⁴⁶Which of you can prove Me guilty of sin? If I speak the truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷Whoever belongs to God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.” ⁴⁸The Jews answered Him, “Are we not right to say that You are a Samaritan and You have a demon?” (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. The main bulk of those who are dialoging with Jesus were men who used to follow Him. V.31
- B. Jesus made it clear that real faith stands the test of time. V.31
- C. Jesus then used the metaphor of slavery to describe mankind’s relationship to our sinful nature. V.32-36 Even good people are slaves to sin!
- D. Only Jesus can make us sons of God. V.36-37
- E. The father of men and women is the devil. V.38-41 44-45
- F. Hearing the words of Jesus Christ and putting them into practice is the only true way to identify the children of God. V.42-43 47
- G. Those who used to follow Jesus Christ couldn’t defeat what He was saying so they went to personal attacks. V.48

II. What does this passage teach us?

- A. Just professing Jesus is not enough. He is either our Lord or our enemy.
- B. The Gospel is not just for bad people.
- C. Our worldview has got to be the same as how Jesus taught us to believe.
- D. The only way to defeat the devil is to follow Jesus. There is a difference between power encounters and truth encounters in spiritual warfare.
- E. Expect the world to attack us personally. Real persecution is coming!